THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 to give focused attention to integrated development of urban infrastructure and services in cities with emphasis on provision of basic services to the urban poor including housing, water supply, sanitation, road network, urban transport, development of inner (old) city areas etc. The Mission envisages central assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore as reform linked central assistance over the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(d) and (e) In 2000-01, the Government inserted a new clause (vii) in Section 10(15) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, exempting interest income from bonds issued by local authorities. Funds raised from Tax Free Municipal Bonds are to be used only for capital investments in urban infrastructure for providing one or more of the following:—

i. Potable Water Supply

ii. Sewerage or Sanitation

iii. Drainage

iv. Solid Waste Management

v. Roads, Bridges and Flyovers; and

vi. Urban Transport (if this is a municipal function under respective state legislation)

Budgetary allocation for loan waiving of farmers

4209. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had currently made budgetary allocations of Rs. 60,000 crore as debt relief for farmers and other marginalized sections by way of loan waiving, credit availability and targeted welfare schemes;

(b) if so, the present number of farmers likely to be covered for loan, State-wise;

(c) the total amount of loan outstanding against the farmers as on date and by when the Banks would issue letters to individual farmers informing them regarding waiving of loan amount;

(d) whether bank would be able to provide such amounts adequately; and

(e) whether loan taken by farmers from private money lenders would also be waived off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers, announced in the Union Budget 2008-09, stipulates waiver of all loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional rural Banks (RRBs) and cooperative Credit Institutions (CCIs) before 31.03.2007, that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008 for small farmers (land holding between 1 and 2 hectares) and marginal farmers (land holding upto 1 hectare). In respect of other farmers (land holding more than 2 hectares), there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for all loans that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.02.2008. The OTS provides a rebate of

25% against payment of the balance amount of 75%. It is estimated that about 3 crore small and marginal farmers and about 1 crore other farmers will benefit from the scheme.

As per provisional estimates the total loan overdues in case of small and marginal farmers and other farmers are Rs. 50,524 crore and Rs. 39,160 crore respectively. As such, the relief to be offered will be around Rs. 60,314 crore comprising Rs. 50,524 crore of debt waiver to small and marginal farmers and Rs. 9,790 crore as relief to other farmers as a One Time Settlement (OTS) at 25 per cent of their overdues.

In order to reimburse the lending institutions, the Government has created a Farmers' Debt Relief Fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore. This Fund shall be augmented by the Government in the following manner:

(Rs. in crore)

Immediately after June 30, 2008 as soon as the first Supplementary for 2008-09 is approved by Parliament	25,000
In Budget 2009-10	15,000
In Budget 2010-11	12,000
In Budget 2011-12	8,000
TOTAL:	60,000

The guidelines to lending institutions, which are in the process of being drafted, will be issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to enable the implementation of the Debt waiver and Debt Relief Scheme by June 30, 2008.

Counterfeiting of higher denomination currency notes

4210. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that counterfeiters are now switching over to bigger denominations like 1000 and 500 rupee notes;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware that value of circulation of counterfeit of currency has suddenly gone up;

(c) whether Government is also aware that this menace is most prevalent in Uttar Pradesh and Southern States;

(d) if so, how many fake currency notes have been recovered in Uttar Pradesh with the details of value, denomination-wise; and

(e) how many people arrested and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the information furnished by National Crime Records Bureau, there has been continuous increase in seizures/recoveries of 500 rupee notes during the period from 2005 to 2007 but a mixed trend has been observed relating to 1000 rupee notes.

(b) to (d) The information is given in the statement (*See* below).

(e) The number of persons arrested in Uttar Pradesh during 2005, 2006 and 2007 was 180, 290, 164 respectively.